



EPA Update on Hillcrest Fire Response

Thursday, October 11, 2012

Efforts to put the fire out at the Hillcrest Industries facility in Attica, New York continue to progress well. Since work began Saturday, September 29, 2012, more than 40,000 cubic yards of material has been moved and, where necessary, cooled. It is estimated that this accounts for about 65 percent of the entire pile. Materials being handled today are at about 625 degrees. The EPA continues to see occasional pockets of open flame, which are quickly extinguished before the material is cooled and moved.

The work is being conducted in a 12 hour daytime shift. Odor remains a nuisance and there is visible steam from the piles. Recent results of real time monitoring show no detectable levels of volatile organic compounds. Recent lab results of sampling for polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, which are by-products of burning, also show no detectable levels. Levels of particles are very low.

Earlier today, the local school held a fire drill that brought students and teachers outdoors. Due to a shift in the winds, the steam and odors from the fire suppression activities drifted toward the school during that time. Real time monitors at and near the school did not detect any levels of pollutants. Because odors, steam and smoke can irritate respiratory systems, the EPA had advised the school before work began to curtail all outdoor activities during the duration of the work to extinguish the fire. This continues to be the EPA's advice.

Residents with questions or concerns may contact Mike Basile, U.S. EPA Community Involvement Coordinator, at (716) 551-4410 or email basile.michael@epa.gov